



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450  
[www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov)

P75M

ARMAND M VOZZO ESQ  
350 SOUTH MAIN STREET SUITE 117  
DOYLESTOWN PA 18901

DATE PRINTED

01/05/05

## NOTICE OF PATENT EXPIRATION

According to the records of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO), payment of the maintenance fee for the patent(s) listed below has not been received timely prior to the end of the six-month grace period in accordance with 37 CFR 1.362(e). THE PATENT(S) LISTED BELOW HAS THEREFORE EXPIRED AS OF THE END OF THE GRACE PERIOD. 35 U.S.C. 41(b). Notice of the expiration will be published in the USPTO Official Gazette.

Expired patents may be reinstated in accordance with 37 CFR 1.378 if upon petition, the maintenance fee and the surcharge set forth in 37 CFR 1.20(i) are paid, AND the delay in payment of the maintenance fee is shown to the satisfaction of the Director to have been unavoidable or unintentional. 35 U.S.C. 41(c)(1).

If the Director accepts payment of the maintenance fee and surcharge upon petition under 37 CFR 1.378, the patent shall be considered as not having expired but would be subject to the intervening rights and conditions set forth in 35 U.S.C. 41(c)(2).

For instructions on filing a petition under 37 CFR 1.378 to reinstate an expired patent, you may call the USPTO Contact Center at 800-786-9199 or 703-308-4357.

### U.S.

PATENT NUMBER	APPLICATION NUMBER	PATENT ISSUE DATE	APPLICATION FILING DATE	EXPIRATION DATE	ATTORNEY DOCKET NUMBER
6155550	09432514	12/05/00	11/02/99	12/06/04	



US006155550A

# United States Patent [19]

Sheehy, Jr.

[11] Patent Number: 6,155,550  
[45] Date of Patent: Dec. 5, 2000

[54] **CLIP SYSTEM FOR HOLDING VISE PARALLELS**

[75] Inventor: **James J. Sheehy, Jr.**, Bensalem, Pa.

[73] Assignee: **Precision Products Co., Inc.**, Warminster, Pa.

[21] Appl. No.: **09/432,514**

[22] Filed: **Nov. 2, 1999**

[51] Int. Cl.<sup>7</sup> ..... **B23Q 3/06**

[52] U.S. Cl. ..... **269/277; 269/296; 269/271**

[58] Field of Search ..... **269/277, 275, 269/279, 264, 296, 271**

[56] **References Cited**

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

4,558,856 12/1985 Shaffer ..... 267/277  
5,222,997 6/1993 Montgomery ..... 269/277  
6,024,353 12/1985 Christeson ..... 269/277

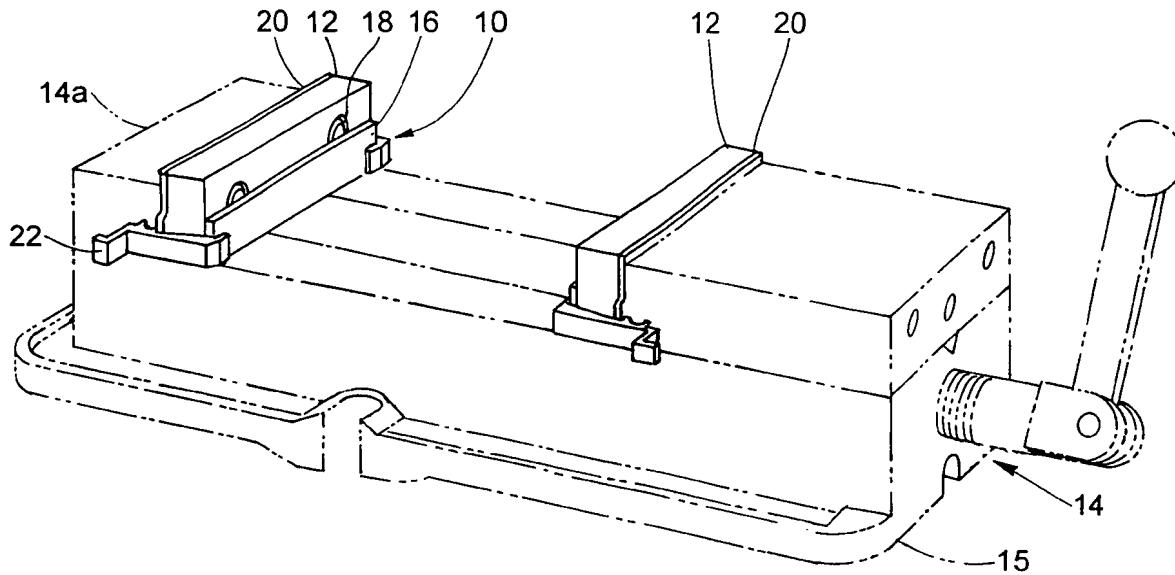
Primary Examiner—Robert C. Watson

Attorney, Agent, or Firm—Armand M Vozzo, Jr.

[57] **ABSTRACT**

An improved clip system is disclosed for holding parallels in place against the respective jaws of a vise. The clip system comprises a pair of specially configured clip members adapted to releasably engage a retaining plate mounted flush between the jaw and the vise, the retaining plate being formed having a slotted tab extended from either side of the plate for engaging a respective one of the clip members. Each clip member is integrally formed having a hook section inwardly disposed at an intermediate position along its length to engage the slotted tab in a forwardly direction and a cap section inwardly disposed at the forward end of the clip member to clamp flush against the parallel and hold it firmly against the jaw when the hook section is engaged with the slotted tab. The clip members are further formed each having an outwardly disposed leg section intended to deflect in a forward direction thereby releasing the clip member from engagement with the retaining plate and allowing removal of the parallel.

6 Claims, 4 Drawing Sheets



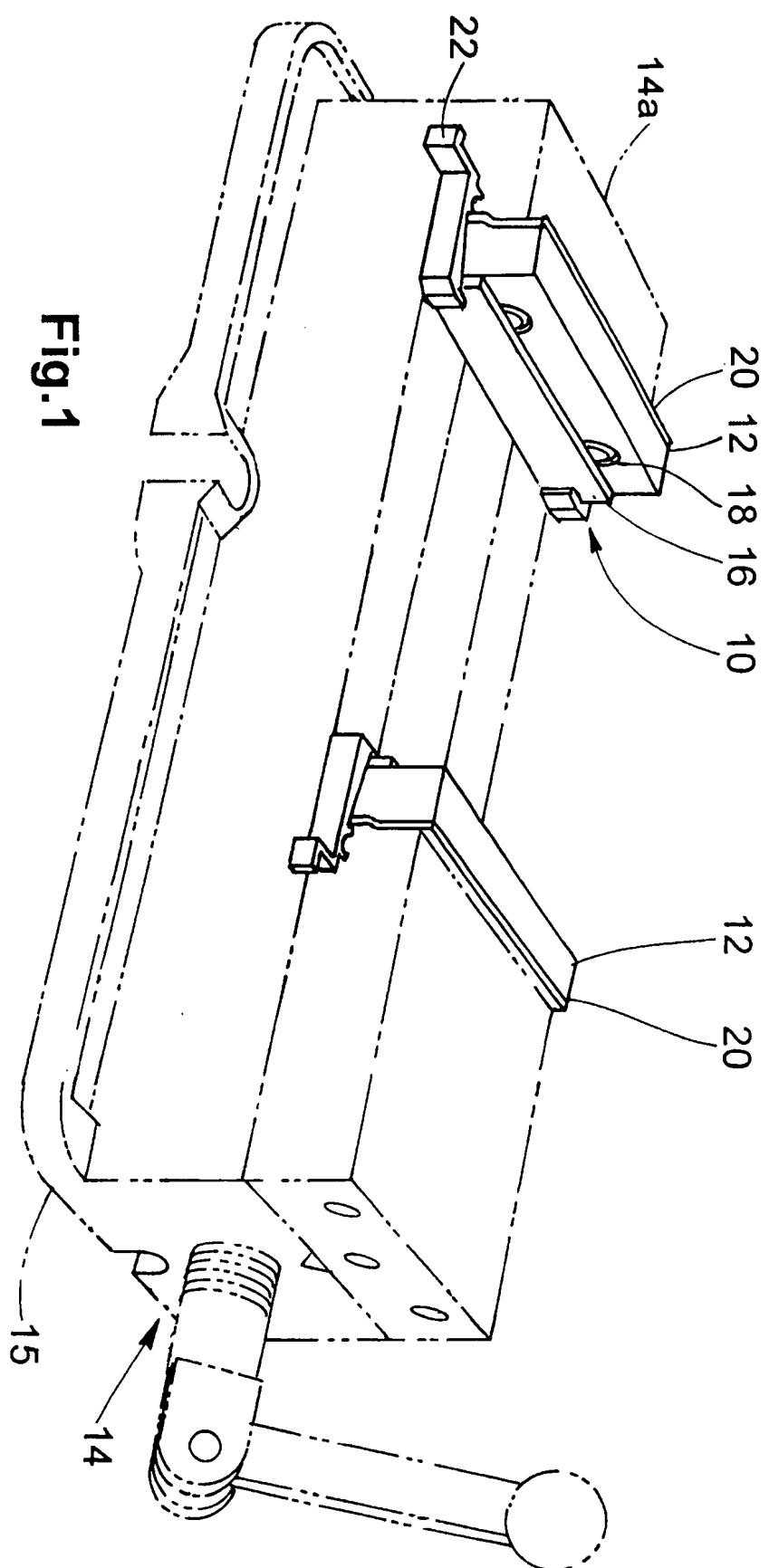


Fig. 1

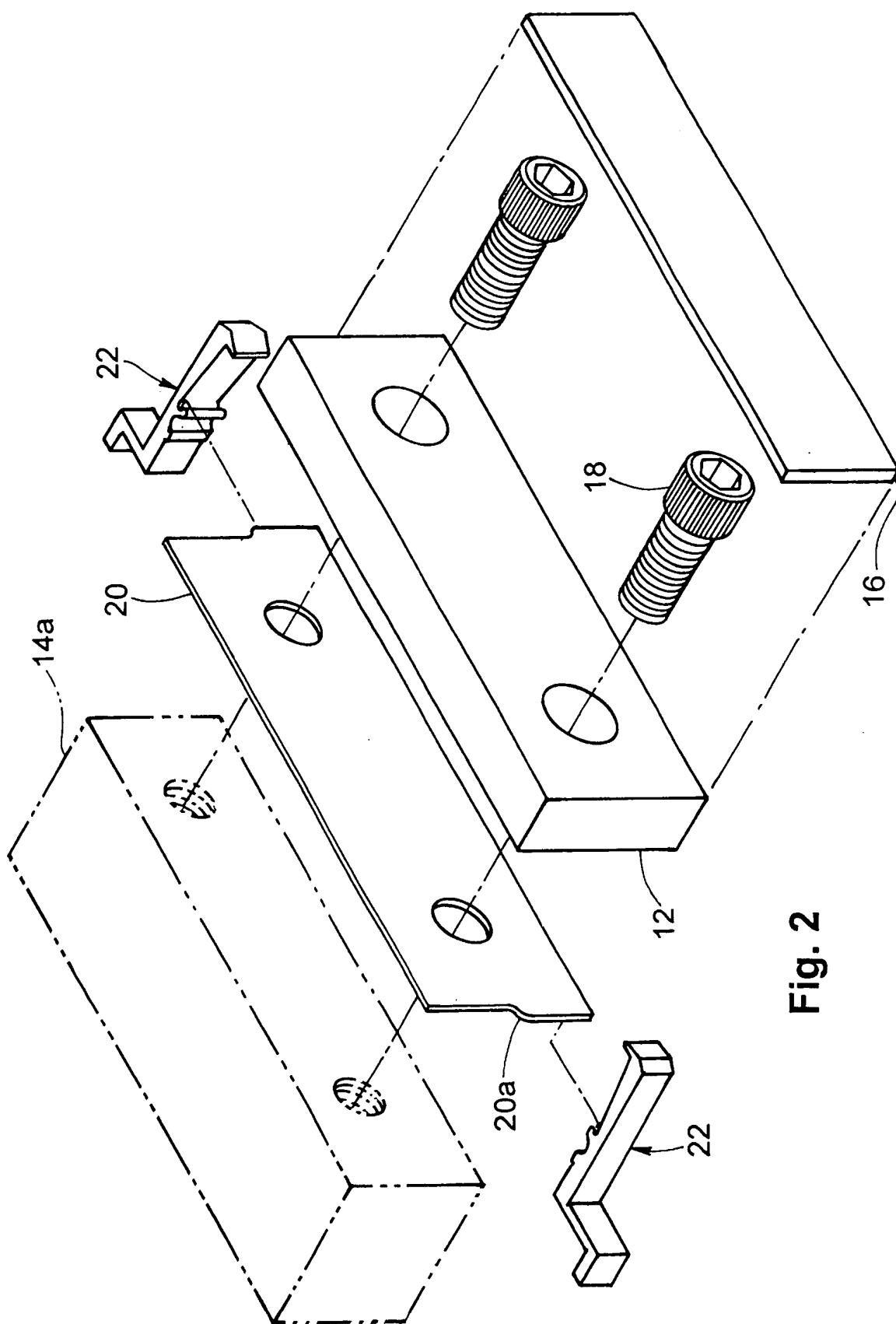


Fig. 2

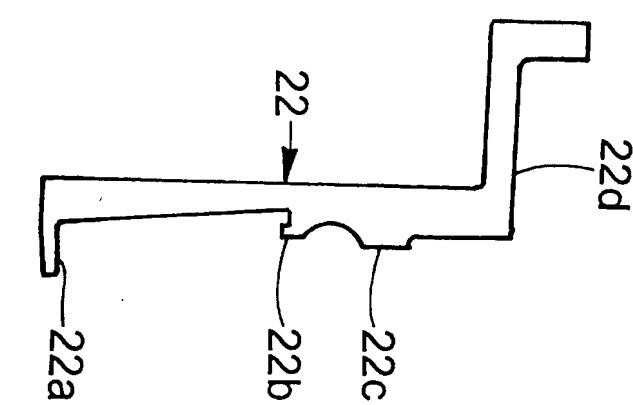


Fig. 5

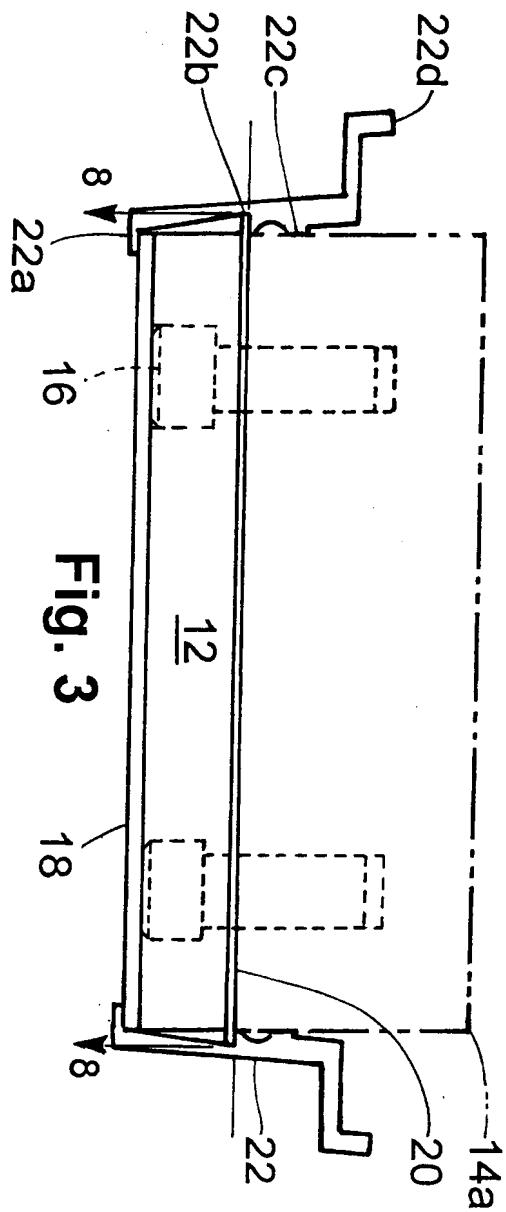


Fig. 3

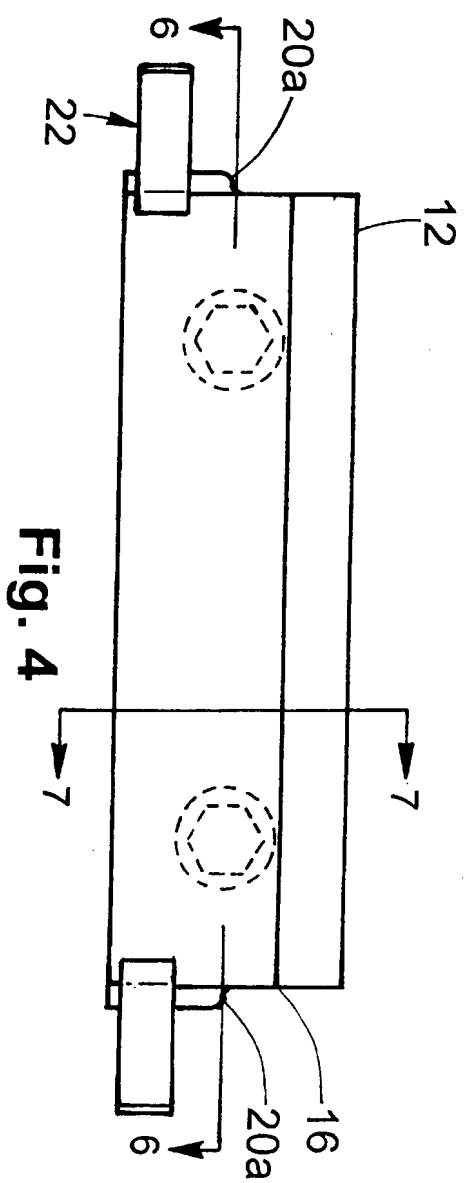


Fig. 4

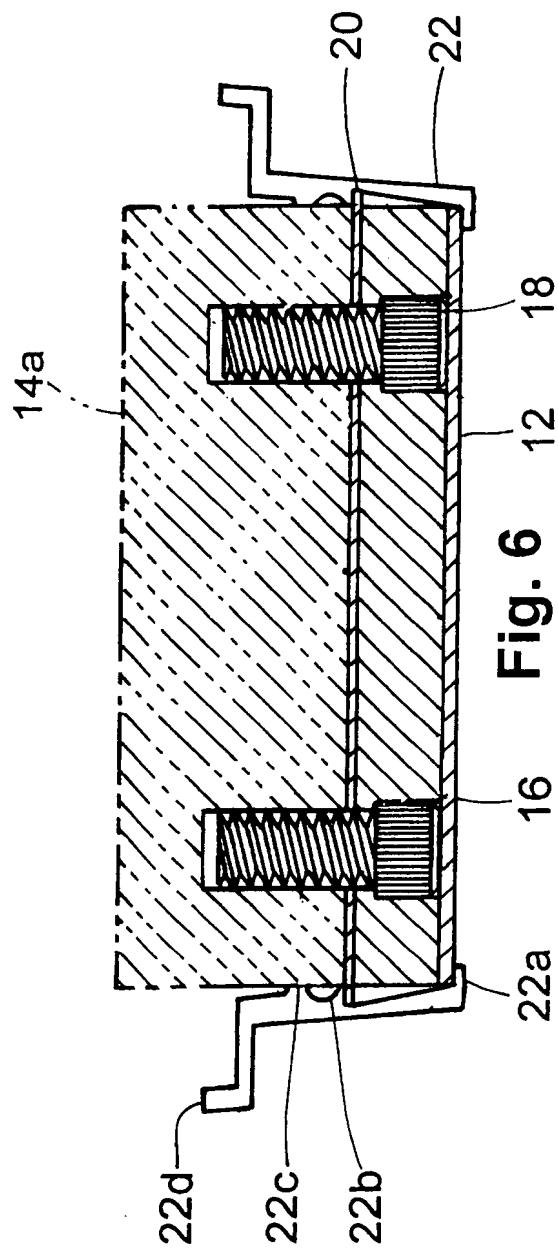


Fig. 6 12 16 14a 22a

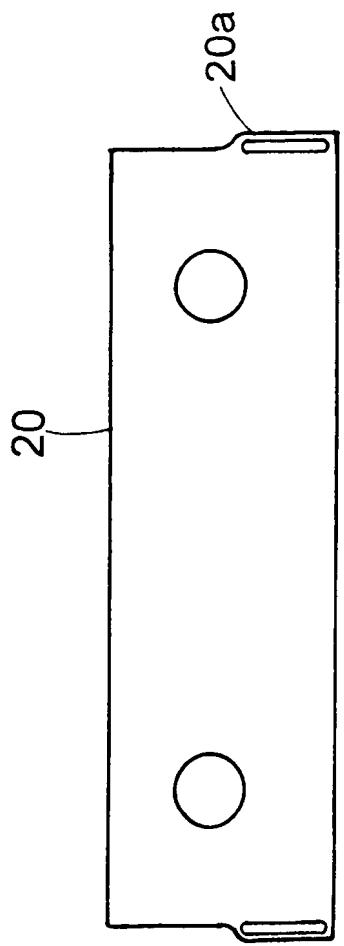


Fig. 8 20 20a

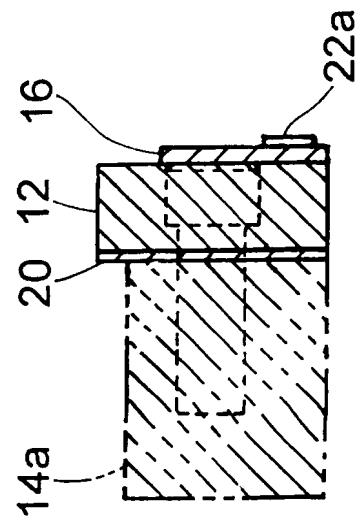


Fig. 7 16 20 12 14a 22a



monly used to hold a workpiece (not shown) in machines such as drill presses, milling machines and the like having a stationary head 14a and a movable head 14b supported on a base 15. Each of the jaws 12 are attached firmly to the body of the vise 14 and removable from the respective heads 14a and 14b by mean of machine bolts 18 or the like secured through circular openings in the jaw, each opening being respectively aligned with threaded holes formed in the respective heads of the vise. The parallels 16 intended to be held in place by the present clip system 10 are the conventional type of flat, metal plates typically set against the respective jaws 12 on opposite heads 14a, 14b of the vise 14 to mount the workpiece in an exact location or attitude during machining.

Referring now to FIG. 2 in conjunction with FIG. 1, the clip system 10 includes a retaining plate 20 intended to mount flush between jaw 12 and either of the vise heads, the stationary head 14a being shown in FIG. 2 and throughout the remaining drawing figures. The retaining plate 20 is a substantially flat metal plate preferably made of a high grade of tool steel. As best viewed in FIG. 8, the retaining plate 20 is fabricated having essentially the same rectangular profile as the jaw 12 but further formed having a slotted tab 22a, described in greater detail below, extending transversely from either side of the plate. Each retaining plate 20 is further fabricated having circular openings through the thickness of the plate intended to align with those formed in jaw 12 and vise head 14a so that machine bolts 18 may threadingly engage the vise head and secure the retaining plate firmly between the vise head and the jaw. It is noted and should be understood that the retaining plate 20 is mounted in the aforescribed manner having the slotted tab 20a facing toward the vise head 14a and away from the jaw in order to serve the operation of the clip system 10 in accordance with the present invention.

Referring now to FIGS. 3-7 in conjunction with FIGS. 1 and 2, the clip system 10 further includes a pair of clip members 22 specially configured to engage the slotted tab 20a on either side of the retaining plate 20, thereby clamping the parallel 16 against the face of jaw 12 when assembled to the jaw with the retaining plate mounted between the jaw and vise head 14a. In this assembled state, best viewed in FIGS. 3 and 6, the clip member 22, having a substantially L-shaped cross section, is disposed alongside the assembled jaw 12, retaining plate 20 and vise head 14a to clamp respective edges of parallel 16 in place on either side of the jaw when engaged, as described below, with the slotted tab 20a of the retaining plate.

Referring particularly now to FIG. 5, clip member 22 is substantially rigid in its form yet bendable along its length between a forward cap section 22a and a rearward leg section 22d. The clip member 22 is preferably fabricated, typically by molding, of a plastic material, such as nylon, to provide strength to the clip member for clamping as well as flexibility for its spring-like engagement of the retaining plate 20. As best seen in the profile of FIG. 5, each clip member 22 is integrally formed having cap section 22a and leg section 22d projecting in opposite directions substantially perpendicular to the main body of the clip member at the forward and rearward end thereof, respectively. Cap section 22a is a relatively thin pad-like appendage at the forward end of the clip member 22 intended to fit flush to the front edge of parallel 16 and clamp it against jaw 12. Leg section 22d is a relatively thicker appendage projecting from the rearward end of the clip member 22 opposite from the cap section 22a. Intermediate of the cap section 22a and leg section 22d, a hook section 22b is formed on the clip

member 22 projecting from the main body in the same direction as the cap section 22a. The hook section 22b is formed along the main body of clip member 22 a distance rearward and spaced apart from the cap section 22a that is substantially equal to the aggregate thickness of the assembled parallel 16, jaw 12 and retaining plate 20. This spacing of the hook section 22b apart from the cap section 22a allows these sections to cooperate in clamping the parallel 16 to the forward face of jaw 12 when the hook section is engaged in the slotted tab 20a. A flattened section 22c raised in the main body of clip member 22 between the hook section 22b and leg section 22d provides a reference surface for contact of the clip member with the side of vise head 14a and sets the position of the hook section 22b for proper engagement with the slotted tab 20a of the retaining plate 20.

To implement and operate the present clip system 10, therefore, the retaining plate 20 is initially secured and mounted in place between the jaw 12 and vise heads 14a, 14b on opposite sides of vise 14. When the selected parallels 16 are ready to be secured to the forward surface of the respective jaws 12, clip member 22 is placed alongside of the respective vise head 14a, 14b assembled together with the jaw and retaining plate 20 with the cap section 22a of the clip member being directed to the forward surface of the jaw to cover the edge of the parallel thereon. With the parallel 16 in place against jaw 12 and its edge inserted beneath the inwardly disposed cap section 22a, the clip member 22 is urged into engagement with retaining plate 20 alongside the respective vise head 14a, 14b with the hook section 22b fitting into and engaging the slotted tab 20a in a forwardly direction and the flattened section 22c flush against the vise head. The cap section 22a is thereby urged rearward against the edge of parallel 16 clamping the parallel flush against the jaw 12 and holding it firmly in place until the clip member 22 is released. To release the clip member 22 and remove the associated parallel 16 from jaw 12, the leg section 22d is deflected in a forward direction thereby withdrawing the hook section 22b from the slotted tab 20a and releasing the cap section 22a from the parallel.

Therefore, it is apparent that the disclosed invention provides an improved clip system for holding parallels properly in place against the jaws of a vise, particularly more suitable and effective than those parallel holding devices heretofore developed. The disclosed invention provides an improved parallel holding system that is safer and easier to use on existing machine vises and that clamps the parallel in place against the jaw of the vise without interfering with the positioning of workpiece held within. In addition, the present clip system provides a parallel holder that is easily adapted to standard machine vises and that is effective in holding parallels of various sizes in proper position against the vise jaws. Furthermore, the present invention is easy to manipulate and relatively inexpensive to manufacture and implement on existing vises.

Obviously, other embodiments and modifications of the present invention will readily come to those of ordinary skill in the art having the benefit of the teachings presented in the foregoing description and drawings. For example, the slotted tab 20a described and shown on one surface of the retaining plate 20 may be alternatively provided on both front and back surfaces of the plate or as a further modification, the tab may be slotted through its thickness to provide engagement with the hook section 22b of clip 22 in accordance with the present invention. It is therefore to be understood that various changes in the details, materials, steps and arrangement of parts, which have been described and illustrated to

